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CIA
MOSCOW, IDAHO

✓ Former Central Intelligence Director William Colby said Congress vigorously oversees the U.S. spy business.

However, former CIA agent Ralph McGehee claimed lawmakers and the public were victims of the agency's misinformation.

Colby on Monday told a symposium on Latin America that Congress proved it monitors CIA activities when it halted the intelligence-gathering agency activities in Angola in 1975.

"There have been and still is vigorous supervision over Central Intelligence operations," he said. "Oversight committees work by fixing responsibility on a small number of congressmen and committees so that, if there is some error, it is clear that senators and congressman are responsible for the error."

But McGehee told the University of Idaho audience that congressional oversight committees only hear what the CIA wants to tell them.

"Unfortunately the oversight committees are briefed by the CIA which tells them what it is doing in a country," he said. "I have helped prepare briefings for congressional committees, and I know how distorted those briefing materials are. They are not presented with the true facts."

He said the CIA deals in misinformation with the American people as the primary target.

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